

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1884

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA, PINR

SUBJ: A "BRIEFING" BY LIBERAL MNA GEORGE SPRINGATE

1. GEORGE SPRINGATE, LIBERAL MNA RECENTLY ELECTED FROM WESTMOUNT AND PREVIOUSLY FROM STE. ANNE, CALLED ON CG YESTERDAY AT HIS REQUEST FOR, AS HE PUT IT, "TWO REASONS": FIRST WAS TO ENQUIRE ABOUT GOING TO U.S. (AFTER CONCLUSION OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE) AS AN INVESTOR; SECOND WAS "WOULD YOU (I) LIKE TO GET TOGETHER EVERY FEW MONTHS, PERHAPS FIVE OR SIX MONTHS, WHEN I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT HOW I SEE WHERE QUEBEC IS GOING AND WHAT IT IS DOING?" I ASSURED HIM I WAS ALWAYS READY TO MEET WITH ANYONE AT ANY TIME WHO WANTED TO DISCUSS THE THEN-CURRENT SITUATION, AS ALL INSIGHTS ARE USEFUL TO A DEVELOPMENT OF BROADER PERSPECTIVES.

2. AFTER OUR DISCUSSION OF U.S. IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS, HE WENT ON WITH FOLLOWING POLITICAL COMMENTS:

(A) HE CANNOT SEE WHERE LEADERSHIP OF QUEBEC LIBERALS WILL COME FROM: "GOLDBLOOM IS SHATTERED, LITERALLY SHATTERED, BY NO LONGER BEING A MINISTER"; "GARNEAU WILL PROBABLY NOT SEEK LEADERSHIP BECAUSE LIQUOR BOARD SCANDAL WILL BE DRAGGED OUT"; "(GERARD) LEVESQUE IS NICE GUY BUT NOT A GUNG-HO LEADER THAT PARTY NEEDS, AS PARTY IS IN COMPLETE DISSARRAY"; "(ANDRE) RAYNAULD IS SOMETIMES MENTIONED BUT PARTY HAS GONE THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF A LEADER WHO WAS AN ISOLATED LONER, WHO COULD NOT 'TOUCH' OTHER PEOPLE, AND PROBABLY CAN NOT AFFORD, WILL NOT ACCEPT, ANOTHER"; "(CLAUDE) FORGET IS NOT STRONG AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT (FERNAND) LALONDE MIGHT DO"; "JEAN-NOEL LAVOIE IS SAID TO BE HOPING FOR

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THE LEADERSHIP, BUT HE WAS FELT BY THE CAUCUS TO HAVE USED HIS

POSITION AS SPEAKER TO WEASEL OUT OF HARD DECISIONS AND PROBABLY RECOGNIZES HE COULDN'T WIN AND THEREFORE WON'T REALLY RUN"; "THERESE LAVOIE-ROUX UPSET A LOT OF PEOPLE BY STATING THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION THAT THE ONLY REASON SHE JOINED THE LIBERAL TEAM WAS BECAUSE SHE EXPECTED TO BE A CABINET MINISTER; "GUY ST. PIERRE WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERESTED BUT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO BE A 'LEADER' WHEN YOU HAVE JUST BEEN DEFEATED IN AN ELECTION"; "AN OUTSIDER FROM OTTAWA IS UNLIKELY - (ANDRE) OUELLET IS MENTIONED FROM TIME TO TIME AND HE HAS A BASE HERE THAT HE HAS BEEN SMART ENOUGH NOT TO EXPAND UNDULY, AND MOREOVER HE WAS THE ONLY MP REALLY TO CAMPAIGN HERE, BUT I'M NOT SURE HE'D COME; (MARC) LALONDE PROBABLY COULD NOT WIN; OF COURSE, TRUDEAU HAS BEEN MENTIONED, BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE GIVE UP BEING PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA TO SIT IN THE OPPOSITION IN A PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE?" (COMMENT: HE DID NOT MENTION BRYCE MACKASEY OR JEAN MARCHAND IN ANY VEIN DURING THIS RECITATION OF ASSESSMENTS.)

(B) HE EXPECTS THE PQ TO BE "SMART ENOUGH" TO GIVE THE UN THE STATUS OF AN OFFICIAL OPPOSITION PARTY "BECAUSE IT WILL DIVIDE THE OPPOSITION. OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE A TENDENCY TO PULL TOGETHER.

(C) LIKE MANY OTHERS, HE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE FACT THAT ALMOST NONE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS HAD ANY EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNING "OR EVEN IN ADMINISTERING ANYTHING". HE HAS A LOT OF RESPECT FOR ROBERT BURNS, "A MAN OF GREAT COMMON SENSE", BUT LITTLE FOR JACQUES-YVAN MORIN. (COMMENT: THIS MAY ADD TO HIS CONCERN, AS HE EXPECTS TO BE ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, AND MORIN IS THE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION. MOREOVER, SPRINGATE, AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS OF BILL 22, IS ALSO OUT-SPOKENLY AGAINST THE PQ POLICY (NOT YET CLEARLY DEFINED) OF "RELYING ON QUOTAS" AND FORCING ALL IMMIGRANTS' CHILDREN, INCLUDING NATIVE ANGLOPHONES, INTO THE FRENCH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.)

(D) HE FINDS THE STATEMENT OF MNA BILL SHAW (UN) ABOUT "29 COUNTIES WOULD OPT OUT OF AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC" OUTRAGEOUS NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS IMPRACTICAL ("ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A CORRIDOR FROM OTTAWA TO WESTMOUNT?") BUT BECAUSE IT APPARENTLY "CONCEDES" THE OTHER 81 COUNTIES TO THE PQ, WHICH HE THINKS UNREALISTIC. (COMMENT: RENE LEVESQUE HAS ALSO HAD SOME SCATHING REMARKS ABOUT MR. SHAW'S PROPOSAL, SUCH AS "IT WOULD LEAD TO OTHER

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TERRITORIAL TRADING" AND "THAT'S THE SORT OF MADHOUSE PERSPECTIVE WHICH LEADS NOWHERE.")

(E) HE HOLDS OUT REAL HOPE FOR THE FEDERAL LIBERALS BOTH IN THE BY-ELECTIONS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR AND ALSO IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS (AT LEAST AS FAR AS QUEBEC RIDINGS ARE CONCERNED) THAT WILL PROBABLY COME UP IN 1978. RE THE FORMER: "THE TORIES HAVE NAMED A GOOD CANDIDATE IN VERDUN (ALTHOUGH HE COULDN'T RECALL THE NAME) AND THE LIBERALS WILL HAVE TO

PICK A "CANDIDATE OF THE PEOPLE" TO BEAT HIM, BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY HOLD THE SEAT; EVEN THE PC KNOW THEY CAN'T WIN IN THE QUEBEC CITY AREA (LOUIS-HEBERT AND LANGELIER) ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE A CREDITISTE MIGHT SNEAK IN IN ONE OF THOSE; ROLAND COMTOIS WILL PROBABLY AGAIN RUN FROM HIS FORMER RIDING (HE RESIGNED FROM TERREBONNE TO RUN IN PROVINCIAL ELECTION) AND HE WILL WIN IF HE DOES." RE THE LATTER: "THE LIBERALS SHOULD AGAIN TAKE ABOUT 55 SEATS IN A GENERAL ELECTION".

(F) "TORIES WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM RESURGENCE OF UN IN THIS PROVINCE BECAUSE CLARK IS "TRUDEAU'S GREATEST ASSET." (COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT IS HEARD CONSTANTLY AND SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN AS A GENERALLY ACCEPTED TRUISM.)

(G) "I REALLY HAVE TO TALK TO BRYCE MACKASEY SOON ABOUT ALL HIS RADICALLY-NEGATIVE REMARKS ABOUT LEVESQUE. THEY ARE NOT DOING THE LIBERALS OR THE FEDERALIST MOVEMENT ANY GOOD - INDEED THEY ARE HARMFUL. OF COURSE HE WAS PLANNING TO USE HIS ELECTION HERE AND A MINISTRY AS A SPRINGBOARD TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL LIBERL PARTY AND HAD SPEECHES LIKE THE ONE IN WINNIPEG PREPARED BEFORE THE ELECTION - HE WAS GOING TO COME ON AS THE "SAVIOUR" OF CONFEDERATION. NOW HE'S IN THE OPPOSITION, AND IN A MINORITY GROUP AT THAT. HE'S GOING TO HAVE REAL TROUBLE IN QUEBEC, EVEN IF HE SHUTS UP A BIT, BECAUSE HIS COMMAND OF FRENCH IS NOT ALL THAT GOOD AND IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS THE TALK IF VERY RAPID. HE'S GOING TO MISS A LOT." HARPER

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